

## **M E M O R A N D U M:**

**DATE:** January 11, 1999

**TO:** CHIEF JUDGES

**FROM:** John D. Ferry, Jr.

**SUBJ:** Administrative Policy Memorandum 1999-01; Batterer Intervention Standards

---

In July 1997, the Governor established the Task Force on Batterer Intervention Standards. The charge given the multi-disciplinary task force was to "develop statewide standards for programs providing services to court-ordered perpetrators of domestic violence and to make recommendations for improving the courts response to this crime(domestic assault)." After a year of intensive work, the task force finalized their recommendations and presented them to the Governor, who has endorsed them. The purpose of the standards are to:

1. Provide guidelines for ethical and accountable intervention systems to better protect victims and other family members.
2. Provide a framework for the use of batterer intervention as a part of the continuum of the coordinated community response to this criminal behavior.
3. Establish the **minimum** level of respectful, humane, consistent, and appropriate intervention provided to persons convicted of a domestic violence related criminal charge.
4. Enhance public awareness of domestic violence issues, give batterers increased access to appropriate

intervention (treatment) services, and reinforce the concept that violent behavior is unacceptable.

5. **Assist in helping judges** and others identify Batterer Intervention Services (BIS) that are reliable, predictable and responsive sources of intervention (treatment).
6. Provide the public **and the court** with realistic expectations of service.

These standards set out a process and establish a criteria for:

- Case Intake
- Lethality Evaluation
- Requiring mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect as well as other criminal behavior
- Establishing a minimum curriculum
- Establishing recommended methods for treatment including, group size and facilitation
- Identifying contra-indicated treatment methods including couple and family counseling, and alternative dispute resolution
- Establishing completion criteria
- Establishing methods for identifying contractual and non-compliance discharge from the treatment program
- Establishing recommended program policies
- Establishing recommended length of treatment program ( a minimum of 26 sessions). (Sessions are usually provided once a week)
- Establishing prerequisite credential for facilitators, program coordinators, interns, volunteers etc. (treatment staff)

Chief Circuit and District Judges  
Administrative Policy  
Memorandum 1999-01;  
Batterer Intervention Standards  
January 11, 1999  
Page 3

- Establishing a minimum number of training hours per year for facilitators
- Establishing program reporting(record keeping) standards

In an effort to provide judges with information on all recommended and appropriate options with which to address issues associated with domestic violence, enclosed please find a copy of the Batterer Intervention Standards. To facilitate use of the standards, we are also providing a checklist that courts can and should provide to any program desiring to qualify to provide court ordered batterer treatment.

Implementation of the Batterer Intervention Standards is part of a joint effort between the State Court Administrative Office, the Governor's Office, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and, the Family Independence Agency, Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board to facilitate the use of high quality batterer treatment programs and to strengthen the coordination of justice system response to the crime of domestic violence. As a part of this effort, we urge you to work closely with your county prosecutors office, probation department and local domestic violence shelter program.

The checklist can be used by a local domestic violence coordinating council to evaluate batterer treatment programs. It can also be distributed (as a self-evaluation document) by courts that do not have a local coordinating counsel.

We believe adoption of the standards is an important step towards ensuring quality batterer treatment programs and, will assist local courts and other agencies involved in preventing or prosecuting domestic violence crimes in dealing with these matters more effectively. Our goal in the justice system is to keep victims safe and to hold abusers accountable.

Please contact Pam Creighton at (517) 373-4843 if you have any questions concerning the standards or their implementation.

cc: Regional Administrators  
Trial Court Administrators  
James Covault  
Pamela Creighton